

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05 /023 W

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R 172240Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8324

AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO

AMCONSUL MATAMOROS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 5308

DEPT PASS DOT

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EWWT, EAID, ELTN, MX

SUBJECT: BROWNSVILLE-MATAMOROS RAILROAD PROJECT; PORT OF
MATAMOROS

REF A. MEXICO 4497; B. MEXICO 4830

1. EMBASSY TCO MET BRIEFLY WITH AL CISNEROS, GENERAL
MANAGER OF THE BROWNSVILLE NAVIGATION DISTRICT ON JUNE
5, 1975 TO DISCUSS BROWNSVILLE-MATAMOROS RAILROAD
RELOCATION PROJECT. PRESENTATION OF PROJECT HAD BEEN
MADE BEFORE MEXICO'S PRINCIPAL RAILROAD OFFICIALS ON
JUNE 3, 1975 AT THE ADVANCES IN RAILROADING SEMINAR
AT THE U.S. TRADE CENTER BY HOY RICHARDS OF TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY.

2. CISNEROS STRONGLY ENDORSED THE PROJECT AND, AMONG THE
OPTIONS, EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW TRACK IN MEXICO THAT WOULD LOOP AROUND MATAMOROS
TO THE SOUTH AND EAST, BEING CLOSEST TO THE GULF OF
MEXICO (SYSTEM 5A-3A OF THE STUDY). HE ALSO STATED
THAT THE USG COULD PAY FOR THE COSTS ON THE MEXICAN
SIDE OF THE BORDER. CISNEROS BASICALLY ENDORSED
DAVID AMATO'S EFFORTS TO GET BINDER AND FELIX TOGETHER
(REF A), BUT NEVERTHELESS REALIZED THAT THE MEXICAN
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PORTION OF THE CONSTRUCTION MIGHT WELL SLIP TO 1977

BECAUSE OF THE CHANGE OF GOM PRESIDENTS IN 1976.

3. HE DOWNPLAYED ANY THOUGHT THAT THE GOM MIGHT
DEVELOP THE PORT OF MATAMOROS AS A RIVAL TO THE PORT
OF BROWNSVILLE (REF B). THIS, HE SAID, WOULD
BE TOO EXPENSIVE, AND GOM PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WAS
NOT OVERLY INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING THE BORDER AREAS.
JOVA

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